

JUN 16 1924

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WESTERN GRIT

Photoplay in five reels

Written and directed by Ad Cook

Author of the Photoplay (under section 62)
Ward Lascelle Productions of U.S.

JUN 16 1924

Washington, D. C.

Register of Copyrights
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I herewith respectfully request the return of the following
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copyright in the name of Ward Lascelle Productions

Western Grit - five reels

Respectfully,

FULTON BRYLAWSKI

The Ward Lascelle Productions
hereby acknowledges the receipt of two copies each of the
motion picture films deposited and registered in the Copyright
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<u>Title</u>	<u>Date of Deposit</u>	<u>Registration</u>
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The return of the above copies was requested by the said
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Fulton Brylawski

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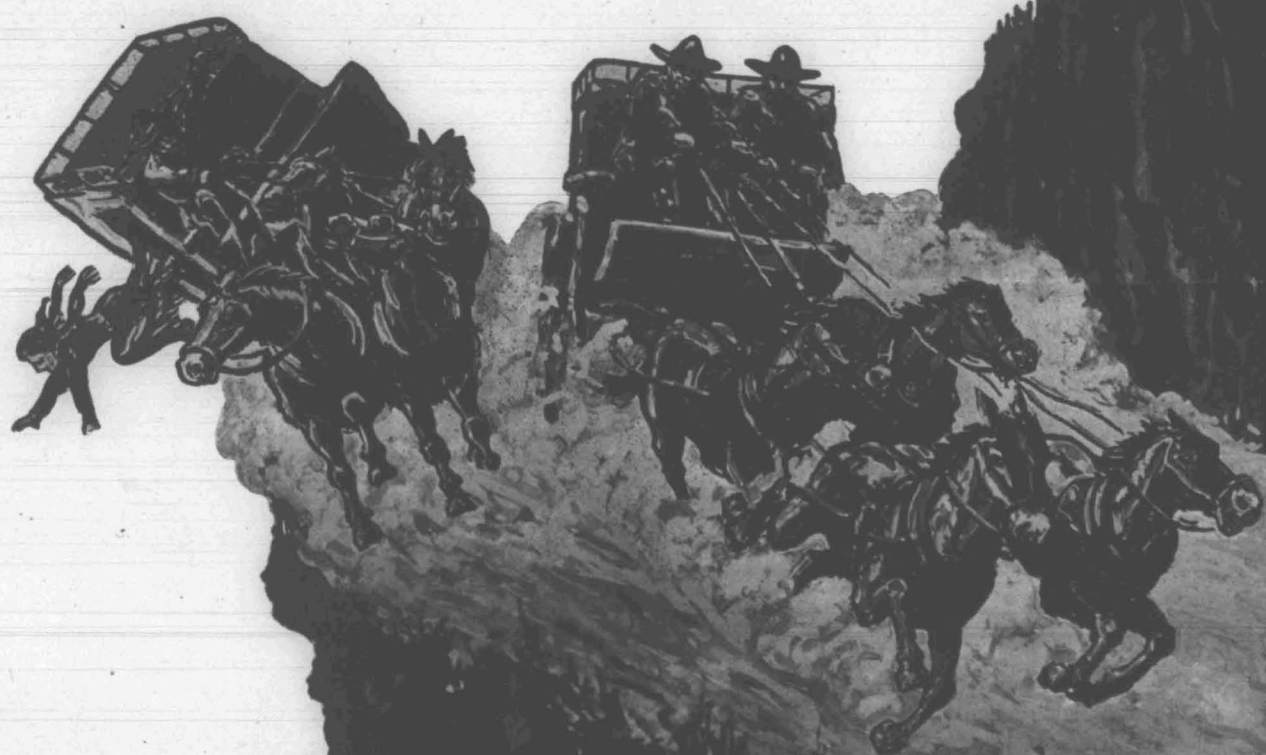
JUN 16 1924

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LESTER CUNEO IN "WESTERN GRIT"

Supported by
ALMA DEER
JOE BONNER, LAFAYETTE MCKEE,
RAYE HAMPTON, SLIM PADGETT,
NEWTON CAMPBELL, HARRY BELMORE
PIETRO SASSO

Directed by
AD COOK



GERTL



**Eight
11×14**



LOBBY

DISPLAY



**Two
22×28**



JUN 16 1924

THE STORY OF "WESTERN GRIT"

THE town of Jawbone possessed two stage lines which naturally formed two different factions and, as is common in most other lines of business, one represented the "trust" and the other the "independents." Like most so-called "trust" organizations the "trust" stage line represented the worst element and the "independents" the best.

Jed Black headed the "trust" line and was surrounded by as fine a bunch of disreputables as will be found in any one part of the country. John Grayson headed the so-called "independent" line and naturally did the worst business of the two, due to the fact that he was less aggressive, less of a bully, and squarer than his opponent, Jed Black.

John Grayson's ranch had been mortgaged to the limit through his endeavors to keep his almost defunct stage line going, but it was, nevertheless, one of the very best ranches in that part of the country.

Walt Powers, the foreman, (played by Lester Cuneo) was the squarest man in the Jawbone territory. He knew what a bad deal John Grayson was receiving from most of his employees, but found it hard to tell Grayson this, as Grayson was inclined to see nothing but good in most everyone he met.

As our story opens we find all of Grayson's stage line employees selling him out to the opposing faction by doing everything in their power to drive away his patronage, but still leading him to believe that they are working for his best interests. Even John Grayson's son, a weakling, was in the employ of the opposing faction, furnishing them with confidential inside information as to his father's business. This son, Jim, spent most of his time in the Jawbone saloon at the gambling table. Jed Black wields a powerful hand over Jim Grayson for the reason that he advanced Jim money to square his gambling debts.

Several miles from Jawbone John Grayson's stage is seen rolling along the old stage road. On the top with the messenger is Mickey, general roustabout on the Grayson ranch, who divides his time between the ranch and the stage line, having lots of fun but doing very little work. While Mickey couldn't be accused of being a glutton for labor he was unusually loyal to his employer, John Grayson, and fairly idolized the foreman, Walt Powers. Inside the coach is a lone passenger, Minnie Smith, by name, a school teacher by

profession, husky and not exactly young, but coy and single. Mickey had stretched his neck about three feet looking in first one end of the coach and then the other, endeavoring to flirt with Minnie. While leaning over too far he had fallen off the back end onto the boot of the stage and almost into the lap of Minnie. Although this was accidental it gave Mickey the chance he had been waiting for, that of striking up a conversation with Minnie, which he made the most of. Due to Minnie's shyness it took Mickey quite a while to get her to talk to him, and answer him the question that he asked all women, namely, was she single. Size, shape, weight and age made no difference to Mickey. If they were single there was hope, as Mickey wasn't such a wonderful catch himself.

At the Grayson ranch Jim Grayson is seen asking his father for money. His father explains that he is having a hard time making both ends meet and is in grave danger of losing the stage line and his ranch to boot. He begs his son to give up gambling and stay away from the Jawbone saloon. The son jerks away and says something cutting that saddens his father. As Grayson walks away from his son to another part of the ranch yard Jed Black enters, with several of his crooked hirelings, and endeavors to browbeat Grayson, telling him that if he doesn't get his coach off the road and leave the field entirely to him something unfortunate will happen to him in the very near future. Grayson endeavors to remonstrate with him and Jed Black starts getting rough. This has been seen by Walt Powers, the foreman, who rushes to Grayson's assistance. He starts fighting two of Black's bunch but is stopped by Grayson, who doesn't want any trouble. Powers orders the Black bunch off the ranch, telling them they will have to deal with him if they start anything.

At a watering place on the stage line road the Grayson coach is stopped and Mickey is endeavoring to dig a rock out of one of the leader's hoofs. The Black coach drives up; the drivers start kidding the Grayson bunch and order them off the road. Mickey resents this and invites the driver of the Black coach to get down and fight it out. The driver of the Black coach laughs sneeringly at Mickey, swings his whip at him, knocks him off the road, and drives out.

Later in the main street of Jawbone the Grayson coach drives in.

Mickey has made rapid progress in pressing his suit with Minnie, the teacher, and very gallantly helps her out of the coach. Slim Burrows, height six feet, weight one hundred twenty-five, who considers himself quite a devil with the ladies, steps up to Mickey and Minnie and through a new brand of gallantry escorts Minnie up the street to her boarding house, leaving Mickey to bring the baggage.

At the Grayson ranch John Grayson dashes excitedly up to Walt Powers telling him the good news that Alma, his daughter, is coming home from school, and that he is sure that everything will be all right, as Alma is the only one who has ever been able to handle her brother, Jim, and that he is also sure that Alma will figure some way to help him out of his financial difficulties. He tells Walt to hurry and saddle up the horses so that they will be in time to meet the stage coach that Alma is coming on. Walt wastes no time, as ever since he has been in Grayson's employ he has been in love with Alma, although he has never had nerve enough to tell her so.

As the stage coach drives into the town Walt and Grayson arrive on horseback in time to help Alma out. After Alma has been properly welcomed she inquires about her brother, Jim, and can't understand why he didn't come with the others to welcome her home. Walt, knowing that Jim had neglected his sister for his saloon associates, makes some excuse for Jim, endeavoring to shield him, and leaves to bring him from the saloon. Walt has a hard time pulling Jim away from the gambling table and is forced to handle several of the other players roughly who try to keep Jim from leaving the game. Outside the saloon Walt tells Jim to buck up and tell his sister that he has been busy doing something worth while as an excuse for not meeting her. This Jim does in a rather clumsy fashion but it succeeds in keeping Alma from learning the truth. Alma, Walt and her father leave happily for the ranch while Jim goes back to his pals in the saloon.

Alma and Walt have gone for a ride near the ranch. Alma is glad to be astride a horse again in her little buckskin suit, while Walt is so happy in Alma's company that he has almost lost his power of speech.

The next day Minnie Smith took charge of the little schoolhouse near Jawbone. She found that there wasn't going to be any age limit to her pupils as Mickey and Slim had

THE STORY OF "WESTERN GRIT"

CONTINUED

suddenly decided that their education had been sadly neglected. There was nothing for Minnie to do but give Mickey and Slim seats among the children, although she was quite sure that it was something other than education that brought the two suitors to school. Mickey and Slim showed their enmity for one another by each playing the usual school boy pranks upon the other. Then after Mickey had dotted the i's in the word "Mississippi" with his forty-four pistol and he and Slim had wiped up the floor with one another Minnie decided to call it a school day and sent home the few remaining children who had not been scared out by the fight of the suitors.

That evening Mickey and Slim called on Minnie at her home under the pretense of wishing help with their studies, after staging a battle in front of her home, as each preferred being helped with his lessons alone. This session inside the house wound up in the usual way, but with Mickey again in the lead as far as the affection of Minnie was concerned.

The next day Alma had business to attend to in Jawbone and as she walked down the main street she was insulted by Black and several of his hirelings. As he endeavored to force his attentions upon her Walt Powers rode into town just in the nick of time, succeeded in licking the biggest of the bunch in one of the toughest fought battles ever seen on the screen. This of course increased Alma's regard for Walt.

That afternoon Mickey succeeded in having Minnie all to himself after school, that is for a short time. They were soon discovered by Slim who had a hard time getting Minnie's attention, but this he eventually did by telling her that he could recite Shakespeare. This left Mickey out in the cold again, so Mickey left the scene broken hearted, while Slim still ranted Shakespeare. Mickey sought out his friend, Walt, who after hearing Mickey's tale of woe thought of a plan to make Minnie care for Mickey again. This plan which they proceeded to carry out was to have one of the ladies in the neighborhood claim that she was Slim's wife. This was done successfully just as Slim had finished telling Minnie that he had never loved any other woman. This scene closes with Mickey again in the lead.

The next day Walt forced Jim to leave the saloon and his gambling pals after having fought and knocked out two of the gamblers. As Walt and Jim exited from the saloon they

were seen by Alma as she passed by. When Alma reprimanded Jim for being in such a place Jim gave Walt as his reason for being there, saying that Walt was the cause of his slipping from grace and that he had forced him to gamble. Walt is dumbfounded but as he does not care to cause Alma any unhappiness he does not tell Alma that her brother is lying. Alma proceeds to abuse Walt for leading her brother astray and she and Jim leave the scene. Walt is left saddened by this turn of events.

At the ranch Jim, weakling that he is, tells Alma more lies about how Walt is responsible for all his bad behavior. Later, Walt grabs Jim and asks him what he means by lying like that. Jim, frightened and weak, begs Walt not to tell Alma the truth, and plays upon Walt's sympathy, saying that the truth will make Alma unhappy. Walt reluctantly agrees to say nothing and con-



tinues taking the blame just for Alma's sake.

The Black bunch became more and more lawless in their tactics. Their stage was rarely on time, and several holdups of their stage were attributed to them, as no resistance had been offered. The better people of Jawbone wanted the mail contract turned over to John Grayson's stage line and as Black's contract was almost up the Government Official agreed that both stages should race and the one getting the mail to Jawbone first would be entitled to the mail contract.

On several occasions Walt tried to make Alma understand and believe in him without an explanation, which Alma refused to do, ignoring him every time she met him around the ranch. This so saddened Walt that life hardly seemed worth living.

The day of the race arrived with Grayson elated at the prospect of winning the mail contract until Walt told him that he had reason to believe that his driver was going to throw him down by pulling the race, and offered to drive the race himself. Alma, overhearing this re-

mark, tells her father not to believe anything Walt says, as he was the cause of her brother gambling. Walt, disheartened, walks slowly away. Grayson decides to let the driver he has picked drive the race. Mickey has overheard Grayson's driver positively promise Black that he would pull Grayson's coach, thereby letting Black win the mail contract. In the meantime, the race has started. Mickey rushes to tell Walt about the driver promising to pull Grayson's stage coach. Walt jumps on a horse, and dashes out endeavoring to overtake Grayson's coach. Alma, who was about to leave the ranch to see the finish of the race, is overtaken by one of Black's men who tells her to come with him, as her brother is in trouble and wants to see her. Walt, after taking precipitous short cuts, comes out on the stage road just before Grayson's driver passes. As the Grayson coach drives by Walt swings from his horse, knocks driver off of coach, and proceeds to finish the race with the Black stage coach a long distance ahead.

Alma and Black's man ride into scene where Black and gang and her brother Jim are plotting to delay the Grayson stage. Black tries to make love to Alma. Her brother Jim surprised at seeing her there, says that he may be a rotter but he will not stand for anything happening to his sister. Black orders his men to tie Jim to a nearby tree and as Alma will not permit him to make love to her he suddenly decides to tie her to a tree they intend cutting across the stage road which will not only have the effect of putting the Grayson stage out of the race but will also serve as a revenge upon Alma who has repulsed him. Walt, through clever driving, has passed the Black stage. As he passes one of the Black gang jumps from their stage to his and tries to knock Walt off; he is himself knocked off by Walt. After Black's coach dashes by, Black and his gang with Alma drop tree across road and after tying Alma to it leave her to her fate. Her brother Jim, who has worked ropes loose that bound him to the tree, runs madly to stage road hoping to stop Walt before he crashes into Alma and tree in road. What little manhood he possesses asserts itself and his only thought is to save Alma and Walt. Walt's coach is thundering along and Alma is frantically endeavoring to free herself. Just as it looks as if Alma, Walt and the coach would be dashed to pieces Alma's brother frantically climbs to the road, runs around a bend in road, stops Walt

THE CAST

Walt Powers	Played by	LESTER CUNEO
Alma Grayson	" "	ALMA DEER
Mickey	" "	JOE BONNER
Minnie Smith	" "	RAYE HAMPTON
Jed Black	" "	LAFAYETTE McKEE
Jim Grayson	" "	NEWTON CAMPBELL
Jed Black's Stage Driver	" "	"SLIM PADGETT
Slim Burrows	" "	"SLIM" ALLEN
Government Official	" "	PIETRO SOSSO
John Grayson's Stage Driver	" "	"SLIM" CHAMBERS

JUST A WORD ABOUT THE CAST

We employ nothing but experienced talent. All of our cast are either old, legitimate players or picture players of long experience. Our star, Lester Cuneo, is the best actor in Western pictures, the best fighter, one of the best riders, and is very good looking. In his Western outfit he reminds one of a character often seen in the Remington paintings.

Our leading lady, Alma Deer, beside being very beautiful, has an unusual amount of histrionic ability, a combination that is very rare in pictures today.

Our cowboys are real, not department store dummies, so be assured that all of our Western pictures will have real Western characters and real riders.

The Story of "Western Grit"

Continued

and coach but within a few feet of Alma. Walt jumps to Alma's rescue, releases her; she repulses him until her brother hurriedly explains that he has lied about Walt making a gambler of him. Alma's brother runs from scene to help father in Jawbone. Alma and Walt are happy again but waste very little time. Walt says that he will not give up and will endeavor to drive down embankment at side of the road hoping to drive around fallen tree in road. Alma says that she will go with him and will not let Walt go alone. As they start down embankment coach turns over several times. Alma jumps, and Walt holds on to the horses. Walts picks himself up, Alma staggers to him. Walt, whipped for the moment, stands dazed, suddenly gets idea to finish race by standing on front axle and two wheels and driving four horses. Alma has picked up the mail bag and hopped on axle. Walt orders her off but as she will not budge and there is no time to be wasted they dash out of scene. Walt drives up and down canyons, taking many short cuts that would be dangerous for a man on horse back to take, cuts back to road just ahead of the Black coach. Walt and Alma dash into town, winners of the race and the mail contract. All is excitement. The Black bunch slink out of town. Walt and Alma are so interested in one another that they

hardly notice the government official trying to give them the contract for the carrying of the mail.

A little later a double wedding ceremony is being performed at the Grayson home, Alma and Walt, and Minnie and Mickey. Minnie is dressed up like a Christmas tree. Mickey in a coat many sizes too large for him, scared to death, would back out if Minnie would release her hold on him. Alma looking very sweet, they embrace as the preacher pronounces them man and wife. Thus endeth the story of "Western Grit."

LESTER CUNEO AGAIN TO THE RESCUE

While "Slim" Padgett, one of the best stage coach drivers in the country, was driving a single chase before the camera, one of his lines pulled loose at the bridle. He knew that if he pulled on the remaining line he would throw his team, at the speed they were going, so he had nothing to do but sit in the driver's seat and hope for something nice to happen. "Slim" Chambers, who was stationed on one of the side lines, started after the runaway coach, endeavoring to ride to "Slim" Padgett's assistance, but finding that his horse was too slow had to give up. Lester Cuneo, who was quick to see this, vaulted on his horse, which was the fastest in the company, and after a chase of about a mile overtook "Slim" Padgett's team and gradually slowed them down by

hanging on to one of the leaders.

If anyone doubts this, let them see Cuneo's horse catch up and pass one of the stage coaches as Cuneo rides along side and jumps from his horse to the coach before knocking the driver off. This can be seen in the Ward Lascelle Production, "Western Grit" at the Theater.

THOSE WHO CRAVE A THRILL MIGHT TRY THIS ONE, BEFORE BREAKFAST

Lester Cuneo fans who think they are "thrill demons" will get a slant at a new one at the..... Theatre when they see this star drive four runaway horses with nothing to stand on but two wheels and an axle, with nothing to aid in the stopping of the runaways but two strong arms and one strong voice, and with a handicap such as a small leading lady sitting between his feet on said axle, clinging to both legs and pinching him every time he went over a bump.

This also read well to the leading lady in the script, but she didn't think so much of it when one unusually large rock caused Cuneo's knee to connect with her chin. After this happened Cuneo, while driving, thought it strange that a lady could keep silent so long, but upon looking down saw that Miss Deer had taken the count from the last bump of his knee, and was peacefully communing with the birds. This, of course, didn't aid Cuneo any in guiding this contraption down a mountain side.



EXPLOITATION



Lester Cuneo, best actor and fighter in Western Dramas, star of Ward Lascelle Productions, which company's offering, "Western Grit," comes to the.....Theatre

.....with an all star cast of players including Alma Deer, Joe Bonner, Raye Hampton, Lafayette McKee, Newton Campbell, Slim Padgett, Slim Allen, Pietro Sosso, Slim Chambers.

The story of "Western Grit" runs along as follows: The town of Jawbone possessed two stage lines which naturally formed two different factions, one represented the "trust" and was headed by Jed Black and surrounded by a disreputable bunch. The other, the "independent," was headed by John Grayson.

Walt Powers, the squarest man in the territory, was foreman on the heavily mortgaged Grayson ranch. Knowing that Grayson's employees and even his son Jim, a weakling, are in league with Black to cause his downfall, Powers keeps silent as Grayson believes ill of no one. At the ranch Jim Grayson is again asking his father for money, being greatly indebted to Black. His father begs him to give up gambling and explains the financial losses that are facing him. Grayson then meets Black and some of his crooks who threaten him if he will not take his coaches off the road. This leads to words and Walt Powers interferes and orders the Black bunch off the ranch.

Grayson has just learned that his daughter, Alma, is coming home from school and tells Walt Powers the good news. Walt, who has been

in love with Alma, (secretly) saddles the horses and they ride off to meet her. She is greatly disappointed at her brother's absence, not knowing he is at the gambling tables—Walt hides the truth.

The next day while in town Alma is insulted by the Black gang—Walt arrives in the nick of time and succeeds in licking the biggest of the bunch in a tough battle.

Alma is caused much unhappiness by Jim's behavior—believing Jim's lies that Walt has been the cause of his gambling and throwing away his father's money.

The friction between the two stage companies for the mail contract has been so great that the government official concluded that a race shall decide the award of it.

Walt, fearing that Grayson's driver is in Black's employ, begs to drive the race. Alma overhears and

believing her brother's accusations tells her father not to trust Walt.

Mickey—Walt's faithful follower, hurriedly tells Walt that Grayson's driver has promised to pull the race for Black—Walt jumps on his horse and endeavors to overtake Grayson's coach—after many short cuts Walt reaches the stage and proceeds to finish the race—with the Black coach a long distance ahead.

Alma receives word that her brother is in jeopardy and needs her—follows Black's man, is approached by Black and made love to. Her brother, surprised by seeing her there, says he may be rotten but he will not stand anything happening to his sister. Black orders Jim to be tied to a nearby tree as he won't have his plans interfered with—Alma and Black have a struggle—Alma has repulsed him—Black decides to have revenge—gets his gang to drop a tree across the road—ties Alma to it—just as Grayson's coach is approaching—Jim works himself loose—stops the coach within a few feet of Alma. To the surprise of both, Walt jumps off and Jim confesses to all his lies.

Walt, undaunted, continues with the race accompanied by Alma. Taking a short cut the stage overturns down an embankment. Dazed for a moment Walt decides to finish the race by standing on the front axle and two wheels. Against Walt's orders Alma picks up the mail bag and hops on the axle with him. Taking many perilous chances Walt and Alma dash into town just ahead of the Black coach.

To Grayson is awarded the mail contract—to Walt—Alma for life.

The story is interspersed throughout with entertaining comedy furnished by the rivalry of Mickey and Slim Burrows for the hand of their two hundred pound coy school-teacher.

If you loved a girl and her no-good brother lied about you, accusing you of everything from horse stealing to murder, and the girl believed it, would your love for the girl be strong enough to keep you silent for the sake of her happiness?

See how

LESTER CUNEO

met this problem

in

"WESTERN GRIT"

at the.....Theatre this week. A Ward Lascelle Production.

PRESS MATERIAL FOR YOUR NEWSPAPERS

HERE'S A NEW TEAR PRODUCER

"Slim" Allen, who plays "Slim" Burrows in Ward Lascelle's "Western Grit," was called upon to cry when Joe Bonner playing Mickey was supposed to win the affections of Minnie, the schoolteacher, from Slim. Slim tried his darndest to squeeze out a measly tear or two but with no avail. Director Ad Cook asked him if he thought a little sad music would help any. Slim said he thought it might, so, as is the custom, stars and near stars were asked what tear inspiring piece they preferred played. Slim, after a little thought, said that he thought "How Dry I Am," and "Another Little Drink Wouldn't Do Us Any Harm," might do the trick, and it did. As Director Ad Cook turned around he imagined that he saw other members of the production staff secretly wiping away a tear.

PRESS MATERIAL FOR YOUR NEWSPAPERS OR EXPLOITATION

Is a Man Foolish or Gallant when he will not Speak up for Himself after his Sweetheart's Brother has Lied about him and Caused his sweetheart to Turn him Down?

See a Four Horse Stage Coach Turn Over and Roll Down a Steep Mountain Embankment.

See the Leading Lady Thrown Clear of a Stage Coach into the Top of a High Tree.

LIST OF ACCESSORIES

- 1 one-sheet of Lester Cuneo.
- 1 one-sheet poster.
- 1 three-sheet poster.
- 1 six-sheet poster.
- 1 one-column advertising cut.
- 1 two-column advertising cut.
- 1 three-column advertising cut.
- 2 twenty-two by twenty-eight lobby photos.
- 8 eleven by fourteen lobby photos.
- 10 eight by ten press photos.
- 2 Production slides.

ADVANCE NOTICE

"Western Grit," a Ward Lascelle Production, featuring Lester Cuneo, has been announced as the featured attraction at the..... Theatre during the week of....., is said to be the most thrilling stage coach picture ever produced.

To the best of the editor's knowledge the race of two stage coaches down a narrow mountain grade has never before been portrayed in pictures. As far as the Ward Lascelle Productions are concerned, they do not think they will do it again. They would prefer somebody else try it.

ONE DISADVANTAGE OF USING REAL COMEDIANS

As most everyone knows, Joe Bonner, playing Mickey, and Raye Hampton, playing Minnie Smith, in "Western Grit," a Ward Lascelle Production, are real comedians of both the screen and the legitimate stage, but there are times when this is not so good, as Raye and Joe never seem to run out of pep, and

many a perfectly good dramatic scene is ruined and many feet of film, due to some monkey business Raye and Joe are pulling on the side lines while Mr. Cuneo and Miss Deer are emoting. But we suppose a good laugh is cheap at any price.

ON LOCATION

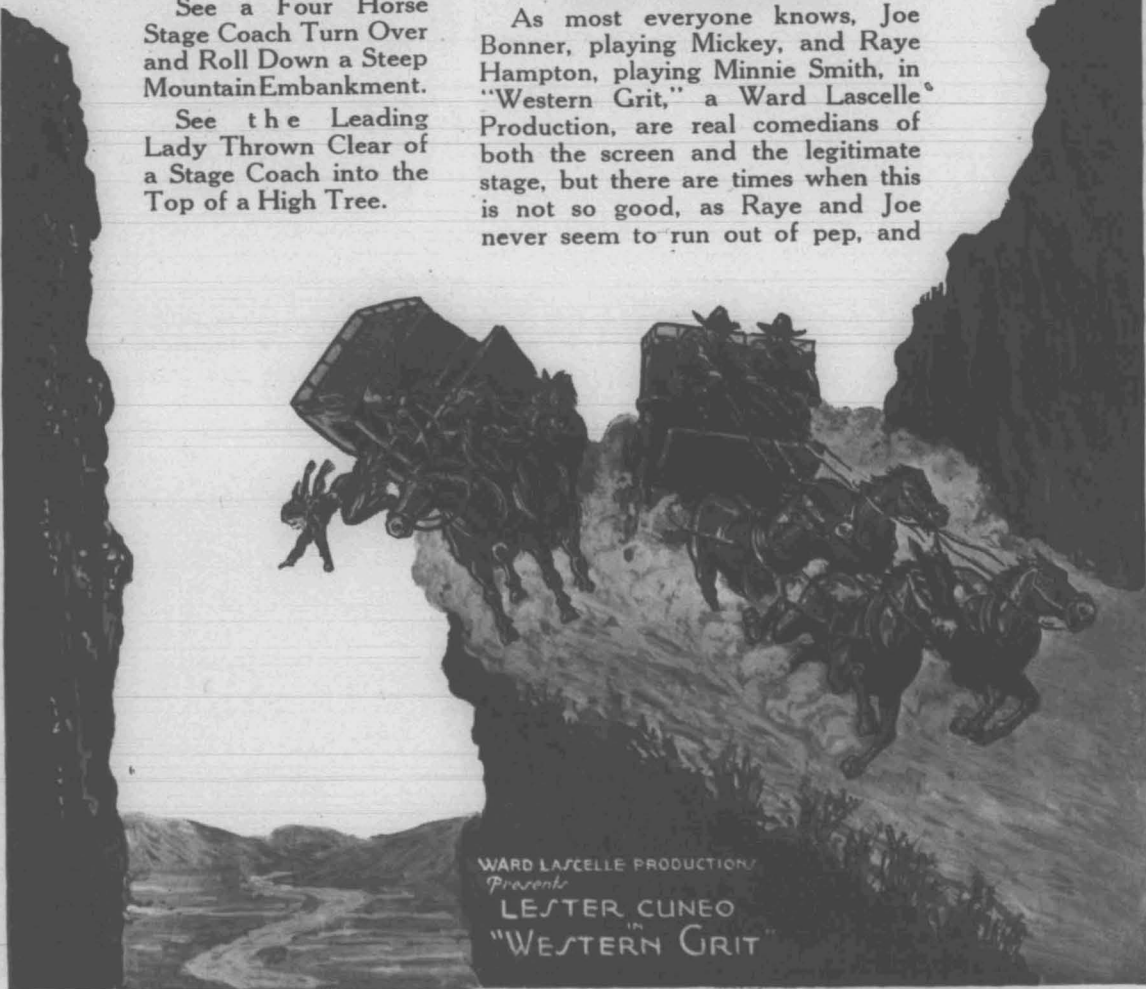
By Jane Gray

In staging the race of the two stage coaches for the mail contract in "Western Grit," Director Ad Cook didn't find it as easy photographing this as it read in the script. It was one thing starting the race and another thing stopping it. Every time the horses were whipped into sufficient speed they ran away, and the entire production staff had to sit down and wait until either the horses ran themselves out or the drivers got them under control.

If anyone doubts the truth of this we will gladly substantiate the authenticity of the above statement.

We gladly furnish the information that one of the leaders of one of the coaches is an "out-law" and was ridden by Yakima Kenutt, world's champion Rodeo star, at Edendale, California, in the early part of 1924.

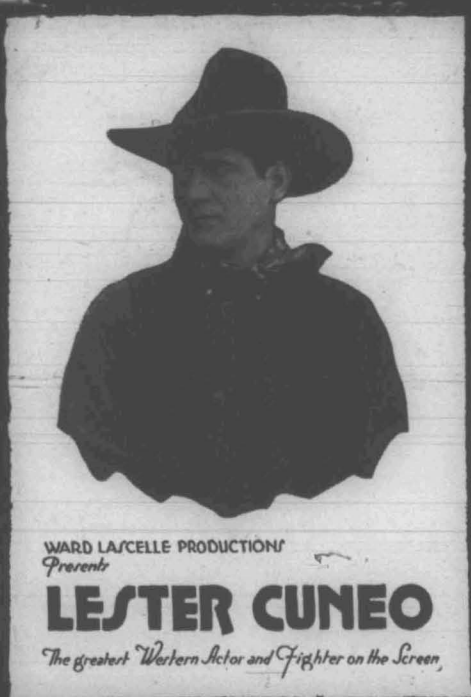
During one of these chases Director Ad Cook asked Lester Cuneo to pick sufficient distance behind the camera in which to stop the coaches. Cuneo allowed about a quarter of a mile beyond which was a steep grade of another mile. As Cuneo and the other coach driver passed the quarter mile clearance the horses were just running away nicely and dashed down the mile grade. There had been no stoppage of vehicles on this grade, but fortunately none were passing that way. Had there been, Ward Lascelle Productions would have had to finish the "Lester Cuneo Series" with another Lester Cuneo.



WARD LASCELLE PRODUCTIONS
Presents
LESTER CUNEO
IN
"WESTERN GRIT"



SIX SHEET



ONE SHEET A



THREE



ONE SHEET B

SHEET

POSTERS

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